

AIDS Benefit at CSZ

A musical evening to benefit the Congregation's "Phooey on AIDS Fund" will be held on Wednesday, February 27 at 8 p.m. at the synagogue. The evening features a recital by Randy Weiss and Patricia Whaley. Randy, a member of the Congregation and an accomplished violinist, plays with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and the San Jose Symphony. He is also concertmaster of various chamber orchestras in the Bay Area. Patricia is the Assistant Principal Violist of the San Jose Symphony. Randy and Patricia will perform works by Bach, Mozart, Martinu and Bartok. A donation of \$5 will be asked at the door.

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear two first-rate musicians and to participate in a most important cause at the same time.

JCF Super Sunday V



ACHARAI—(pronounced "ahkh-ah-righ") The translation is *after me*. As I have done, I ask you to do. As I have stretched my thinking and giving, I ask you to open your heart to do the same.

On Sunday, February 24, the Congregation will once again be an active participant in the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties Telethon. The telethon is a major segment of the Federation's 1985 goal of raising \$18 million (\$15.5 million was raised in 1984).

The funds raised in 1984 were distributed to local agencies including: Jewish Family & Children's Services, Mount Zion Hospital & Medical Center, Menorah Park, Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish Community Relations Council, the new wing of the Home for the Aged, the new Federation Building & Jewish Museum, and various Emigre Services in Israel and around the world primarily through the United Jewish Appeal and Project Renewal in Kiryat Shmona and Tel Hanan.

In Israel, as well as at home, the needs have increased. The new coalition government will enact drastic austerity measures to bring economic stability to Israel. Those who will suffer the most will be the poor and disenfranchised, as subsidies for the basics like food and shelter are lowered and unemployment increases. Project Renewal and higher education are two areas that will be the worst affected by the current crises. The 1985 Campaign Chairwoman, Cissie Swig said in her letter to campaign workers: "It is when another Jew suffers that we must do what Jews have always done—help."

The telethon runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel. Volunteers are asked to register in advance, and can choose one of several three- or four-hour time slots during the day, with an additional hour beforehand for training, and fortifying yourself at the bountiful buffet supplied by the Fairmont. They need mainly volunteers to work the phones, but non-phone clerical help is also welcomed. Following training, you will also be solicited for your own pledge, since it is customary for all volunteers to have made their own pledges before asking others to give. An added incentive is that all donors

And the Son of Megillah Madness II Returns...

Those of us who attended the Chanukah Bash at the San Francisco Medical Society and thought it was perhaps the ultimate in Sha'ar Zahav parties have a wonderful awakening ahead. With all due respect to a fabulous Chanukah celebration, there is life after latkes—and "Purim—the Pageant" is it.

From 8 p.m. until midnight on Saturday, March 9, members and friends will gather at the S.F. Medical Society, 250 Masonic, to continue the long tradition ("long tradition" you scoff?... listen, this is three years in a row; this is tradition) of celebrating Purim with color, fun, bizarritty, entertainment, and everyone's own (and for once accepted) mishegas!

Purim celebrates the victory of right over wrong, when Jews in the time of biblical Persia were rescued through the courage (not to mention beauty) of Esther—one of the first Jewish Queens! How better to celebrate than with a carnival of costumes, masks, games, food, drink, and... the

highlight of the evening... a tastefully moderne and contemporaine adaptation of the Megillah itself! This may not be the Megillah of your Sunday School days, but we'll take bets that it is the Megillah of your own meshugenah machinations!

So, OK, you ask, what else are we offering to get you away from *Wheel of Fortune* and *Saturday Night Live*? Well, how about a costume parade with a prize no less? Or how about a hamentaschen bake-off with another prize (not to mention the glow on dear Aunt Sadie's face as her old family recipe reaps its just desserts)? Maybe games of skill, luck or chance intrigue you. Or maybe all of the above?

This year's booths are going to be better, more varied, more fun than ever before. In the past we have seen "bagel tosses", "pick your nose" (uh, you hadda be there), "take a picture with the Rabbi" just to mention a few. Each committee of the synagogue will be hosting a booth, but anyone can

(Continued on page 12)

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Super Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

of \$25 or more will receive a year's subscription to the *Northern California Jewish Bulletin*.

Every year, there are usually several Sha'ar Zahav members working each shift, so we get to enjoy each other's company as well. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile Jewish Community fundraising effort, please contact me at 641-8477.

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Stephanie Hannaford and Irene Ogus (editorial and production); Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

President's Column

Dorothy was right! "There's no place like home, there's no place like home, there's no place like home!" Catherine and I have just returned from a most wonderful vacation with friends and family in New York and New England. The family Chanukah celebration culminated in a high stakes Dreidl game (jumbo pistachio nuts). The New Year's Eve party took a 30-second break for midnight kisses and good wishes and then returned to killer Trivial Pursuit. Our days were filled with city walks (to see Lord and Taylor's windows, shop in Soho, and—longest walk of all—to find a cab in a snowstorm), country walks (around picturesque villages, frozen ponds and on Vermont mountains clad in snow, ice and silence) and much good talk with people we truly cherish. And now we are *home*—and nothing in the world could feel better!

I have really missed worshipping with you on Shabbat. It is not pleasant to hear "Lord, King, Him, His", etc., and almost *all* congregations in the world *still* use that archaic and demeaning language. It was hard—a month of Shabbats without the warmth and caring that are hallmarks of Sha'ar Zahav. But the month away was very good for me. Since becoming president, my daily life has been so filled with Sha'ar Zahav that I have had little opportunity to step back and view us with perspective. As president, much of my time is spent in problem solving, handling issues that arise and planning for upcoming events. While I was away, these matters were in the capable hands of Don Albert, and I could sit back, relax and let my mind wander. That is a luxury every leader needs (every person needs) in order to see clearly and creatively. What I see is a young and viable institu-

tion—yes, institution. We are not a little chavurah any more with a "stetyl" mentality of gay and lesbian Jews besieged and surrounded by hostility. We are a force unto ourselves; actors and initiators in the world, not reactors. That's not really news; I think we all know that. But we don't all accept it. We want what we have, but we don't want to have lost what we were. We want growth and strength and impact; we fear the loss of the sense of "mishpucha". We want and need the benefits of organization but are loathe to give up informality and the sense of collectivism. We, I think, are suffering some "growing pains". May it always be so! As each of us as individuals must grow our whole lives long or face soul-shriving stagnation, so we must do as a congregation—an institution. That we should never lose touch with our beginnings; that who we *were* should always be a part of who we *are*, that is the challenge and the joy of living. As individuals and as a congregation we must approach the changes and challenges with love and openness. Growing pains hurt—but there is no growth without them. *Together we make it all happen.*

Shalom,

Leila

Brotherhood Theater Evening

All members and friends of the Congregation are invited to join the Brotherhood at a theater party on Sunday evening, February 24. A block of tickets has been reserved for the world premiere of The Traveling Jewish Theater's new production of a play entitled "Berlin, Jerusalem and the Moon." The performance will be held at the Intersection, 756 Union Street, with an 8:30 curtain.

We hope for a large turnout of both men and women from CSZ, so reserve your tickets now by calling Marilyn Hertzberg at the Synagogue office. We ask that all reservations be made no later than Tuesday, February 12. Hope to see you there!

—Jerry Sacks,
Brotherhood Coordinator

AIDS Food Drive

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation has repeatedly expressed its appreciation of our congregation's strong participation in the food drive. We have been making almost weekly deliveries to the Foundation office for use in their residence program. Help us keep filling the collection baskets located in the Oneg Room. We need dry or canned foods, household items and toiletries. If you bring just an item or two each week to Friday night services, it will help immensely.

Regional UAHC Biennial

The 14th Biennial Convention of the UAHC Northern California Council will be held during the weekend of February 22-24 at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. The theme "Judaism for our Time" will be the focus for all the seminars and scheduled speakers. Program events will open with a luncheon on Friday and continue through Sunday morning. Featured speakers include Rabbi Lee Bycel, Associate Dean of Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles; Lydia Kukoff, Director of the UAHC Commission on Outreach; Charles J. Rothchild, Jr., Chairman of the UAHC Board of Trustees; Rabbi Leonard A. Schoolman, UAHC Program Director; Albert Vorspan, Vice President and Director of the UAHC Commission on Social Action; and Rabbi Eric Yoffie, Director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America/ARZA.

Topics, during the more than dozen seminars, include community outreach, synagogue finances, volunteerism, leadership development, changes in Reform Judaism and Black-Jewish relations.

CSZ Participation: All our officers will be attending the convention along with Mike Rankin, our UAHC liaison. The featured entertainment at the Saturday evening dinner will be none other than the CSZ Ensemble! We hope that many other members of the congregation will consider attending. This is a good chance to learn more about the workings of the UAHC and also an opportunity for other Union members to learn more about Sha'ar Zahav.

The basic registration fee for the weekend is \$25 (\$30 after February 15), with a separate fee for meal programs. Call Marilyn in the office for more information or to get registration materials.

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is always the second Wednesday of the month, so this month we're on for Wednesday, February 13 from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided.

—Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

Now auditioning for

CHORUS PERSONS

to dance in

GALA RELIGIOUS PAGEANT

Non-dancing roles also available
No experience necessary

**Contact Megillah Madness III
choreographers by Feb. 15:**

Allan Goldofsky	929-9524
Aaron Cooperovich	821-4257
Steven Elmanoff	651-5857

Hillel Conference

A Jewish Men's conference will be held at S.F. State Hillel on Sunday, March 10. Details will appear in the *March Forward* or contact Mike Rankin.

Congregational Seder

Our annual second night congregational seder will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California Streets). This event is always a highlight of our Synagogue's year.

New recipes are being researched to provide you with the best in kosher-style and vegetarian meals. The planning committee is consulting with the catering staff at the hotel developing the menu and adapting traditional recipes. Also, kosher dinners, provided by the Kosher Nutrition Project, will be available upon request.

The Ritual Committee will be leading a reading of CSZ's Hagadah, with the participation of many members of our Congregation. Members, friends and relatives are all invited to attend this joyous event

New Members Welcomed

During the past year, Sha'ar Zahav has welcomed more than 70 new members to our family. The weekend of January 11-13 was designated "New Members Weekend." On Friday evening, many new members participated in the services, which were led by Dan Chesir and new member, Avner Lapovsky. The Oneg that evening was given by the Membership Committee in honor of the new members. On Sunday afternoon, all the new members were invited to a wine and cheese reception with many of the more "seasoned" members of the congregation—namely, our officers, Va'ad members, committee chairs and Synagogue Administrator. After informal socializing and discussions, Sha'ar Zahav Archivist, Sam Thal, presented a slide show of CSZ activities over the past 8 years.

Thanks to the members of the Membership Committee for their good work over the past year: Chair Allan Berenstein, David Gass, Bob Goldware, Allyce Kimerling, Terry Rothchild, Barry Siegel and Elliott Toporek.

Our congregation exists only through the volunteer efforts of our members. The participation of all members is needed to keep it working. If you aren't involved in any projects or committees, consider what area you might enjoy working in and give someone a call. If you aren't sure whom to contact, start with Marilyn in the synagogue office.

in the life of the extended family that is Sha'ar Zahav.

Make your reservations now using the form accompanying *The Forward*. The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 1. Tickets are the same cost as last year: \$25.00 for members, \$30.00 for non-members and \$18.50 for children. Some financial subsidies are available (contact our Treasurer, David Stein, at 431-7541). We also welcome contributions to cover these subsidies. All tickets will be held for pickup at the door.

Plan on joining us at our Congregational Seder on April 6. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the Seder itself will start at 6:30. Individual seating is on a first come basis. Tables of eight may be reserved. For more information, please contact Marilyn in the Synagogue office.

Va'ad Report

The January Va'ad meeting was held on the 14th at the shul, and was chaired by our Vice President, Don Albert, in Leila Raim's absence. Don announced that Sha'ar Zahav will not be having a float in this year's Gay Freedom Day Parade. In his Treasurer's report, David Stein announced that we broke a record for receipts from our Chanukah party. David then reviewed the quarterly statement and explained that we are well in the black financially. In her Administrator's report, Marilyn asked for a roster of all committees and their members, and announced that she is compiling a file of information on rental halls in the city, for the congregation to use in planning events.

The Va'ad voted to send the President, Vice President and Treasurer to the Northern California UAHC Biennial in San Mateo in February. It also voted to hold the 1985 Advance at the Westerbeke Ranch over the weekend of June 28-30. A proposal for the administration of gifts and commemorations prepared by the ad hoc Commemorations Committee was approved unanimously. An Election Committee chaired by Jonathan Funk, and composed of Allan Gold, Alita Rosenfeld, Allan Berenstein and Sharyn Saslafsky was submitted by Leila and approved.

Committee Reports

The Building Committee is continuing its work on improving security and has received payment from the insurance company for the losses from the burglary we had last fall. New members are also being sought for that committee. Reports were also presented by the Bylaws Committee which is preparing some revisions in the Bylaws to be voted on at the May Congregational Meeting, and by the Finance Committee. Ralph Frischman will be chairing this year's Purim Committee, which is planning Megillah Madness III: Purim, The Pageant. The Va'ad voted to approve Randy Weiss' request to hold a classical violin recital on February 27 at the shul to benefit the Phooey on AIDS Fund.

Don announced the resignation of Kathi Isserman as chair of the Education Committee. This was accepted with regret. The Va'ad voted to hold this year's Congregational Seder at the Holiday Inn. The Ritual Committee submitted a proposal for a policy regarding the reading of yahrzeits at the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur, which will be voted on at the February Va'ad meeting. It has also compiled a list of books

and classes offered in the Bay Area for those people interested in converting to Judaism, and will match people on the committee with anyone wanting more information on conversion.

Allan Berenstein announced his intention to step down as chair of the Membership Committee on March 1 and also presented two new members to be voted into the Congregation. The Membership Committee was praised for the work it put into organizing this year's new member social. Finally, the Social Action Committee is currently recruiting congregants to work at this year's Jewish Community Federation Super Sunday Telethon on February 24 at the Fairmont Hotel.

Reminder: All members are invited to get their information about what's happening with the Va'ad first hand by attending a Va'ad meeting!

—Mark Mendelow, Recorder

Ninth Int'l Conference

The Ninth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will take place the weekend of Thursday, June 6, through Sunday, June 9, 1985 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. This Conference is being jointly sponsored by the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations and Congregation Bet Mishpachah. Although Conference plans are not yet final, current information is available from Bet Mishpachah at P.O. Box 1410, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Conferences bring together congregationally affiliated and un-affiliated Gay and Lesbian Jews from all corners of the world. Individuals have traveled from all parts of the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Israel to participate in this biannual event. A full range of activities is being planned that includes social programs, speakers, Shabbat services, tours, workshops, and entertainment. The Conference will have something for everyone.

Eric Keitel, Sha'ar Zahav's current representative to the World Congress, will be keeping us informed as to further details. Meanwhile, any members who might be interested in attending the conference next June should let the office know.

Election Committee Announcements

At the Va'ad meeting on January 14, the Election Committee was officially convened with the appointment of Allan Berenstein, Jonathan Funk, Allan Gold, Alita Rosenfeld and Sharyn Saslafsky to the Committee. The Committee has already met and wishes to make the following announcements:

1. Elections will be held at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 5 for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recorder, as well as for four positions on the Va'ad.

2. The Committee has established suggested guidelines for qualification to run for the various offices and the Va'ad. The guidelines are posted in the Oneg Room and are available upon request from the Synagogue office.

3. The Committee will be approaching qualified members to establish a slate of candidates between now and February 11, and welcomes interested potential candidates to contact any member of the Committee if they have questions or if they wish to make their availability for office known.

4. Any member who is not included on the Election Committee slate has the opportunity to be considered for candidacy by submitting a petition to the Committee no later than Wednesday, March 20. Please note that petition candidates may run for the offices of President and Vice President only if those races will be contested.

5. Further information regarding elections will follow in subsequent issues of *The Forward*. In the meantime, please think seriously about running for office or for the Va'ad; remember, Sha'ar Zahav is only as active and committed as you are!

Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

**Not a member of
Sha'ar Zahav?**

A SCHANDE!

Drag out your costumes
for PURIM: THE PAGEANT

MEGILLAH MADNESS III

The Very Best Event of the
Spring '85 Social Season
Saturday, March 9

Celebrate PURIM with costumes, games, hamantashen bake-off, contests, food, drink, dancing and a rowdy good time.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund—

Jerry Rosenstein, in honor of Chanukah and the ordinary occasions in our lives

Friends of Steve Block, in appreciation of Jonathan Funk's contribution to the memorial service for Steve

Sam Rosen, in appreciation of his son Barry having a temple which he can attend in comfort

Janet Larsen

Wendy Axel

Joel Rubenstein

Paul Glackman

James Bernstein, in memory of Max Bernstein

For the AIDS Fund—

Allan, Justin and Matt Berenstein, in memory of Sonna Radetsky

Jerry Rosenstein

For the Torah Fund—

Terry Rothchild and Lynn Taylor, because of their love for CSZ

Gift to the Congregation—

A Tikun and Chumash, donated by **Allan, Matt and Justin Berenstein**, in honor of Harold Schwartz's 70th birthday

Magnes News

How many readers have still not discovered the small treasure in Berkeley called the Judah L. Magnes Museum? Following its very successful exhibition on the Pioneer Jews of Northern California, a new exhibition is opening on February 3: "Last Barrier to Freedom—The Cyprus Detention Camps, 1946-49." This moving exhibit examines this little-known chapter in the aftermath of World War II, when thousands of Holocaust survivors managed to reach Palestine, only to be turned away by the British and left to wait in detention camps on Cyprus. The curators at Magnes have gathered art and artifacts produced in the camps, expressions of the frustration, hopefulness and inspiration of this remarkably courageous group of individuals. A special feature will be the work of Shmuel Katz, now one of Israel's most prominent political cartoonists and illustrators, who had made sketches recording life in a Cyprus camp when he was 19. A catalog accompanies the exhibit.

The Magnes Museum is located at 2911 Russell Street and is open Sunday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 849-2710.

Classified Ads

POSITION AVAILABLE: For a special person who would like to coordinate distribution of classy newsletter for popular gay/lesbian synagogue. Work with an established, able staff, 1-2 nights a month. On-the-job training available. For more info, call Alex Ingersoll (431-7541) or Bob Goldware (928-3370).

Support A Fund — Any Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, yahrzeit, simcha, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund: underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund: mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund: cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund: contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support to—for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry, National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund: development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund: assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund: underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Torah Fund: purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored also receives a card announcing the gift. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

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Remember

to keep us up to date.

If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

February Yahrzeits

- 1 Goldie Kornblitt Lieberman, Mother of Gershon Lieberman, Grandmother of Deborah Lieberman
- 3 Lee Harston, Father of Jane Stone
- 3 Heinrich Schalit, Grandfather of Ben Schalit
- 3 (12 Shevat) Claire Schmidt, Grandmother of Don Albert
- 5 Beatrice Frenkel, Grandmother of Robert Mackey
- 7 Lillette Wilkes, Mother of Shelley Fernandez
- 10 Hyman Dolinsky, Grandmother of Naomi Baran
- 10 (19 Shevat) Abraham Hoffman, Father of Arlene Hoffman
- 13 Anna Pearl Gilkey, Friend of Janice Macomber
- 13 (22 Shevat) Minnie Wiseman, Grandmother of Jonathan Funk
- 15 Ben Shuchat, Grandfather of David Stein
- 15 Yetta Shuchat, Grandmother of David Stein
- 16 Hilda Schalit, Grandmother of Ben Schalit
- 17 Abraham Spiro, Grandfather of Shelley Spiro
- 20 (29 Shevat) Catherine Albert, Grandmother of Don Albert
- 21 Evelyn Klein, Mother of Elliott Klein
- 21 Asher Liberman, Father of Shirley Liberman
- 21 Gary Walsh, Friend of Sharyn Saslafsky
- 27 (6 Adar) Max Raim, Father of Leila Raim

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

Gifts Procedure Approved

With the increasing size of our Congregation and especially with the acquisition of our building, the Va'ad has been aware of the need for a more formal policy regarding gifts to the Synagogue. After a few months' preparation and discussion, at its January 14 meeting the Va'ad approved a new policy for the administration of gifts and commemorations.

To facilitate both the needs of the Synagogue and the desires of interested donors, the Building Committee will be preparing two lists: an ongoing list of the more mundane items and/or services which we need, with approximate costs; and another list of items which are appropriate for commemoration. As is the custom, the expected donations for commemorative items will be greater than the actual cost of the item. The first list will cover items such as a new copy machine, tables and table cloths, while the second list includes such items as pews, windows, a new ark, an eternal light, a memorial board, etc.

Anyone interested in making such a tangible donation and/or commemoration should contact David Gellman, Chair of the Building Committee, directly or through the office. The Chair, or another member of the committee, will explain the details and legalities of such donations and will work with the donor to try to work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement.

In handling gift requests, the Building Committee will consult with appropriate advisory committees and panels as necessary, namely the Finance and Ritual Committees, and a new Fine Arts Advisory Panel to be appointed by the President. On the Advisory Panel will be a member from the Building, Ritual and

Finance Committees and three members at large who have some expertise in the area. If you are interested in serving on this panel, please contact Leila Raim in writing indicating your desire.

Over the past several months, many members already have indicated an interest in arranging for a gift or commemoration. Often, those requests may have received a confused reply as we searched for a procedure that would ensure that all requests were treated uniformly and fairly. Our apologies to all those who were "put on hold" while this procedure was formulated. We hope that everyone will understand the need for and be pleased with our new policy.

Thanks to David Gellman and Paul Cohen for consulting with me on this project.

—David Stein, Treasurer

February Birthdays!

- 3 David Gass
- 5 Ami Zusman
- 7 Mark Mendelow
- 12 Barry Rosen
- 14 Irene Ogus
- 14 Ron Wolberg
- 15 Russell Discher
- 17 Barry Siegel
- 17 Heather Taplin
- 23 Hal Heller
- 25 Earl Diskin
- 25 Alex Ingersoll
- 25 David Kotch
- 26 Ben Marcus
- 27 Leila Raim
- 28 Judah Katz

Attorney

David R. Gellman
(415) 621-2966

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94102

FEBRUARY

שכח-נדר

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					10 Shevat 1	11 2
12 3 UAHC Presidents Council	13 4 Torah Study 7-10pm	14 5 Women's Havurah 7:30pm 73 Fountain	15 6 Tu b'Shevat	16 7 Finance Comm. 5:15pm 111 Caselli	17 8	18 9
19 10 Newsletter Deadline	20 11 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Torah Study 7-10pm	21 12	22 13 Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am Bylaws Comm. 6pm 860 Noe	23 14 Newsletter Comm. Alex, 431-7541 Building Comm. 6:30 2nd floor	24 15	25 16
26 17	27 18 Torah Study 7-10pm	28 19	29 20	30 21 Rosh Chodesh I	1 Adar 22 Rosh Chodesh II UAHC Biennial San Mateo through Sunday	2 23 Morning Service 10:30am
3 24 JCF Telethon Brotherhood Theater Night	4 25 Torah Study 7-10pm	5 26 East Bay Lunch Group, Lenny 451-1850	6 27 AIDS Fund Recital 8pm \$5 donation	7 28 Ritual Co. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2 Newsletter Mailing 431-7541		

Ritual Calendar

Friday, February 1

Shabbat Shira

Parshah: Beshallah, Ex. 13:17-17:16

Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31

Daniel Chesir, Services

The Torah will be read.

Friday, February 8

Parshah: Yitro, Ex. 18:1-20:23

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:6, 9:5

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Friday, February 15

Shabbat Shekalim

Parshah: Mishpatim, Ex. 21:1-24:18

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-17

Steve Greenberg and David Stein, Services

Friday, February 22

Parshah: Terumah, Ex. 25:1-27:19

Haftarah: I Kings 5:26-6:13

Jon Funk and Ron Lezell, Services with the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble

Saturday, February 23

Saturday Morning Service, 10:30 am

Terry Rothchild, Services

March Preview

Friday, March 1

Shabbat Zachor

Parshah: Tetzaaveh, Ex. 27:20-30:10

Special Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-24

Leslie Bergson, Services

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained more new members in January. A warm welcome to:

Lawney B.

Bob Kravitz

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

CSZ Makes the East Coast Press

Author and editor Arthur Waskow has informed members Garry Koenigsberg and Mike Rankin that an article they co-authored will appear in the spring in *Menorah* magazine. The article is entitled "With David and Jonathan We Remember You, With Ruth and Naomi We Remember You: Different Sparks of Jewish Renewal." It describes Sha'ar Zahav's formation, growth, liturgy and services, tashlik on the Golden Gate Bridge and many other aspects of our congregational life.

Menorah, a Journal of Jewish Renewal, has been published monthly in Philadelphia for almost 10 years. *The Jewish Yellow Pages*, *Jewish Catalogue*, and *Seasons of Our Joy* are also products of the same editorial board that publishes *Menorah*.

Congratulations, and thanks, to Garry and Mike, who have assured us that when the article appears, many copies will be available at the synagogue—if they don't deliver them to each of us in person!

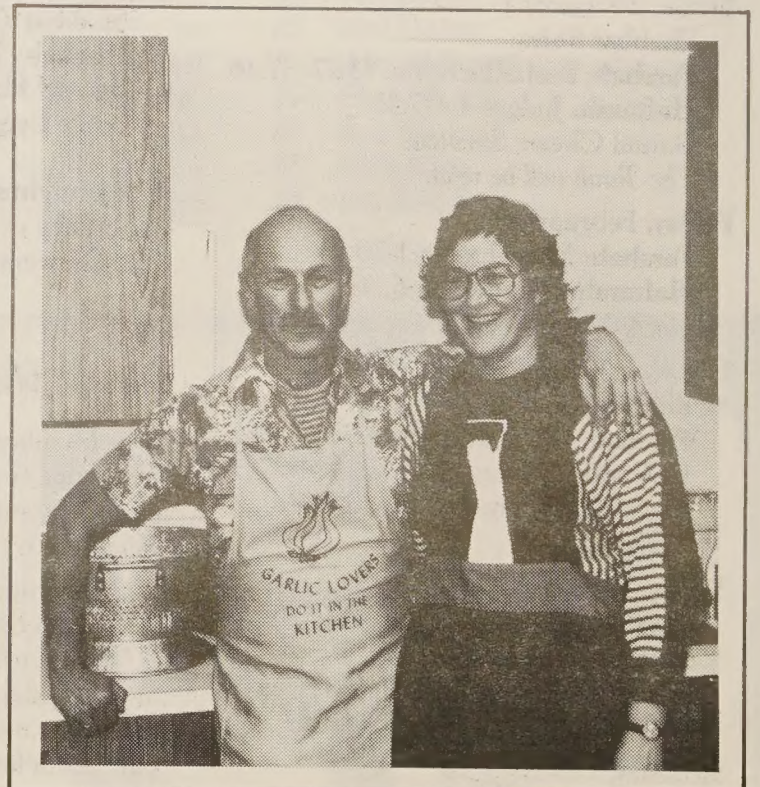
Chanukah Bash Unprecedented Success

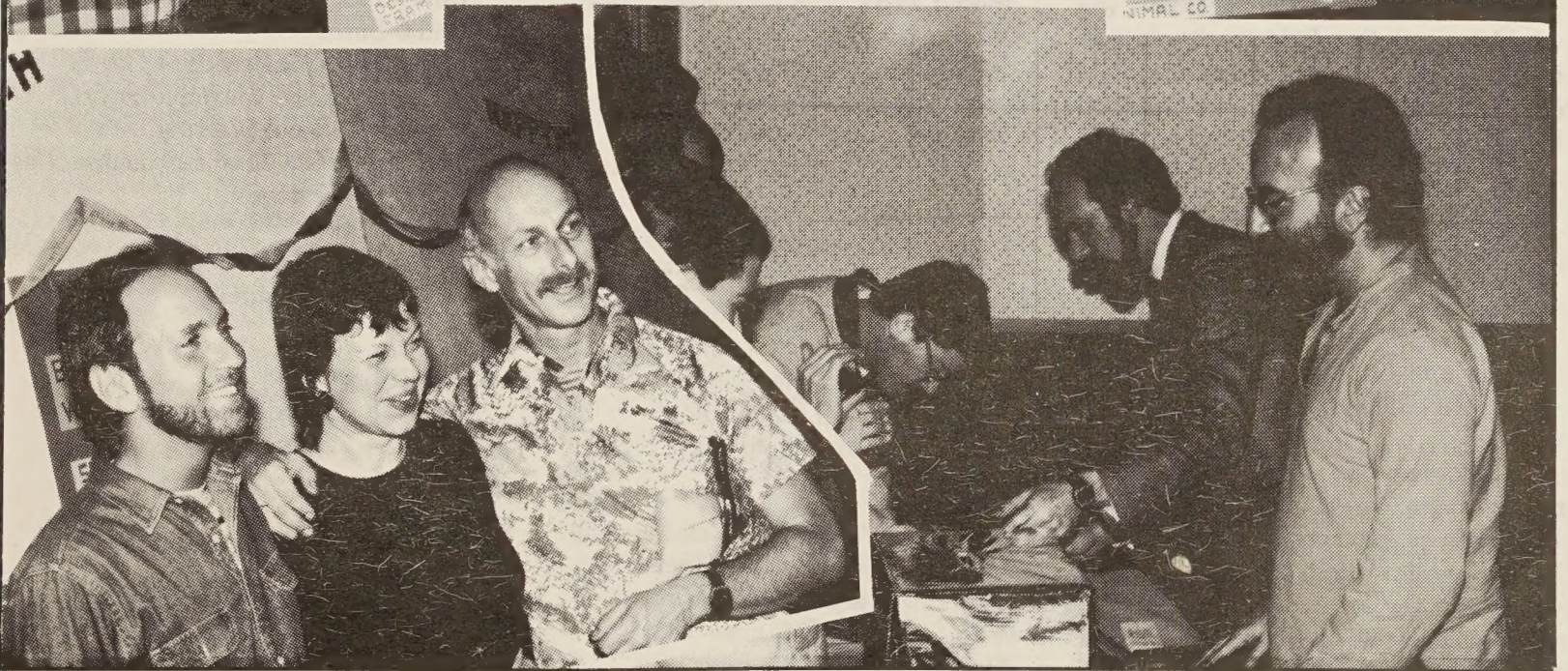
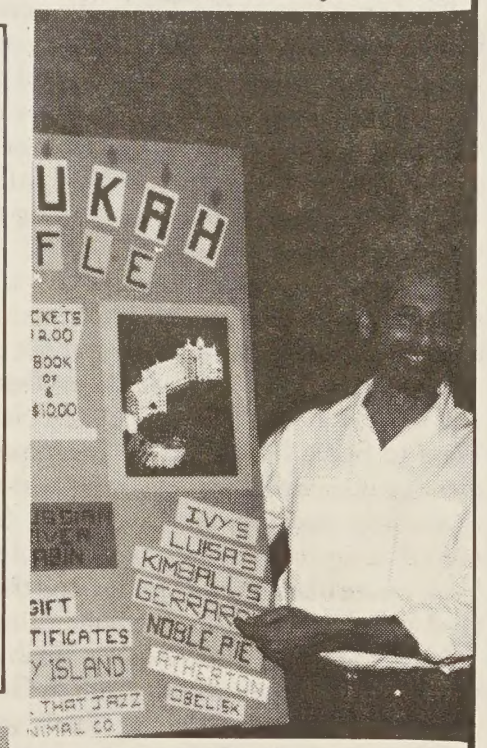
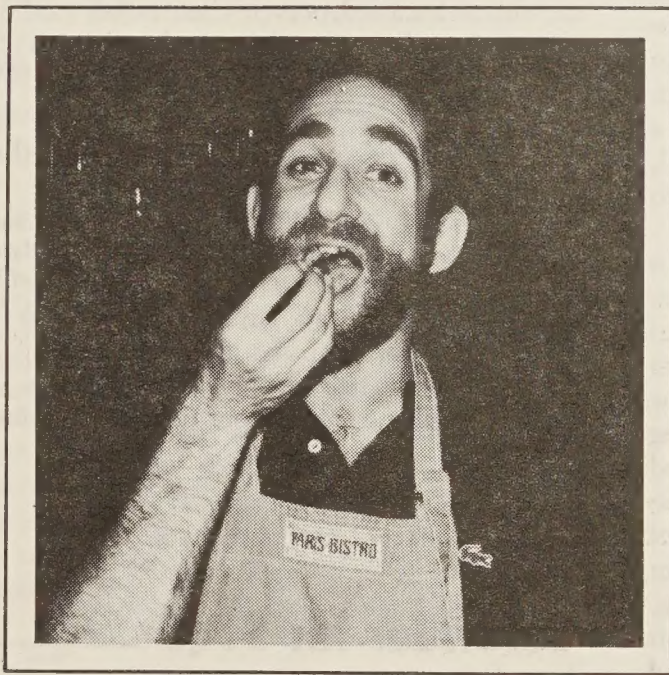
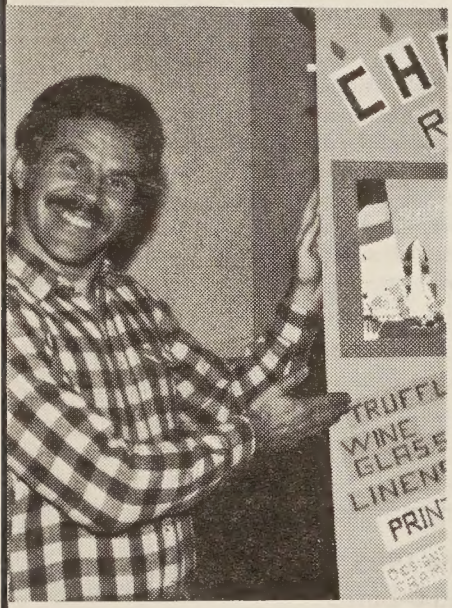
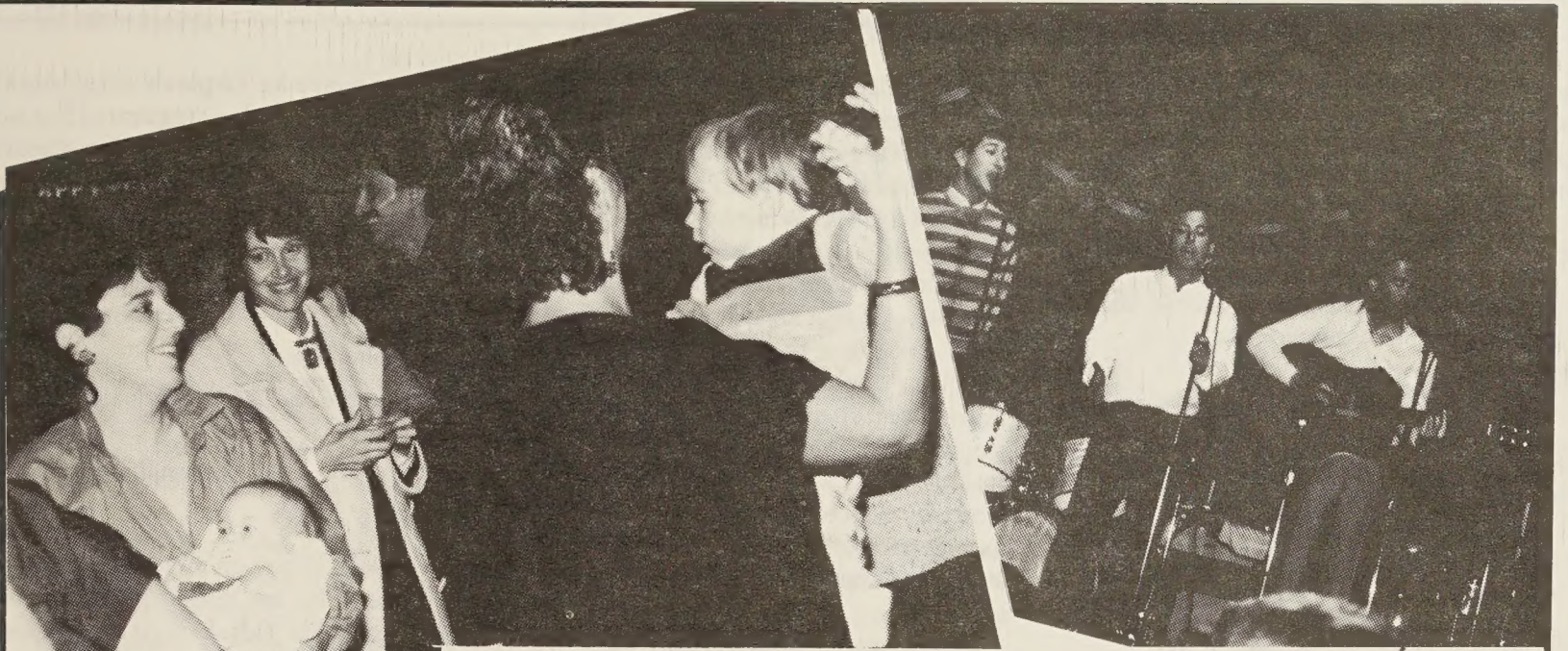


This year's Chanukah Party was clearly the biggest, best and most fun in Sha'ar Zahav's history. Over 400 people attended the event held at the S.F. Medical Society on Saturday, December 22. After being led by Jonathan Funk in a communal multi-menorah candlelighting, the group was treated to a special performance of our own Hallel Brothers, performing part of the Chanukah medley which they had premiered earlier in the month at a fundraiser for Shanti at the 1177 California Club on Nob Hill. Then, we boogied 'til midnight to the live sounds of "Subject to Change."

While more nontraditional sounds filled the air, Chanukah tradition prevailed in other parts of the room. Many tried their luck at the dreidl table, organized by our Treasurer, David Stein, while others indulged in the age-old desire to nosh at the latke bar. This year's latkes were even more numerous and better than ever. Once again, all the credit and special thanks are due to Lenny Brill and his Latke Legion, including Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Steve Elman, Dov ben Khayyim, Mel Kirsch, George Lucas, Mark Mendelow, Steve Rosenbaum and Juanita Rusey. And another long-standing CSZ tradition is homemade applesauce for the latkes from the kitchen of Burt Tessler and James Wentworth. Lenny and his group are truly the unsung

(Continued on page 11)





So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Thank you for your recent column on bowing during services. I always enjoy it when we open the ark and bow toward the Torah during the Aleinu prayer. How did this tradition start?

Energetic in Eureka Valley

Dear Energetic,

Aunt Yente is always happy to get thanks for her column, and she hates having to correct an admirer. (Well, actually, Aunt Yente can't say she hates correcting people. But some people it is more fun to correct than others.) But in your letter is something so incorrect, Aunt Yente must say, "Oy!"

We do not bow to the Torah. We never bow to the Torah. We never bow to any object. And while it wouldn't be as bad to bow to the Torah as it would be to bow to something else (like an idol, maybe, or a political symbol, or even a B.M.W.), still, in Aunt Yente's opinion, even bowing to the Torah would be a great sin.

The second commandment tells us not to make images of anything that exists anywhere, not to bow to them and not to serve them. (And just when Aunt Yente was writing a cookbook, 22 Quick New Ways to Serve Images, too.) The strong message here is that we are not permitted to worship anything but God alone. So even if we say that an object is a symbol of God, we are likely to end up thinking that God and the symbol are the same thing.

Also, you shouldn't think the Torah is the holiest thing in our synagogue. If God forbid, there was a fire, the Torah you wouldn't rescue first. First, you would look to see if there are people who need help (and not just the cute ones, kinderlach!) Part of the reason for this is the principle of *p'kuach nefesh*—rescuing life—which says that almost all religious obligations are less important than a person's health and well-being. But a more important reason is that a person is holier than even the Torah. The Torah is the word of God; but a human is the image of God. The Torah can only teach what God wants; the human can do it.

This does not mean that Aunt Yente is telling you to bow to humans; this is also a sin. (What some of you do at the Mr. Drummer party is your own affair.) We say in the Aleinu that we bow only to God, and so when we say it, we bow to God. But which way do you face to bow to God, who is everywhere?

The tradition arose to bow to the east, towards Jerusalem and the temple mount, where God's glory once rested. (Obviously, this goes for European and American Jews, not for Jews living north or south or west of Jerusalem.) Traditional synagogues are built so that when you face front, you face east, and that's the direction you bow. In our synagogue, the front faces south; for simplicity's sake we still bow that way. (Also, if we turned to the east to bow, some people would claim we were facing towards Brooklyn.) But we do not bow towards the Torah, or even towards the officers of the congregation (although, if they gave Aunt Yente a little raise, she might be a little flexible here).

We honor the Torah in many ways. We rise when it is carried, or even when its Ark is opened; we do not touch its parchment with our hands; if it can no longer be used, it must be buried in a graveyard like a human being. And if it is dropped,—you shouldn't ask; forty days you have to fast. (Of course, this tradition may have had a useful purpose in the old days, when they didn't have Weight Watchers. Actually, considering what Aunt Yente looks like after the holidays, she has almost been tempted to stick her foot out when the Torah procession came by; but now that

she has a recipe for kreplach using Nutra-sweet she is feeling less desperate.) But we respect the Torah, and all the other objects we use in our religion, only because of what they're used for; they are not worshipped, and we don't bow to them.

Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Do I have to be a Yuppy to belong to Sha'ar Zahav?

Professional in Piedmont

Dear Professional,

Yes. Sha'ar Zahav only encourages people to join who are Yearning, Unpretentious, Peaceable Yids. Still, if you're not, so we'll turn you into one.

Also, it doesn't hurt if you own a condominium. (Aunt Yente is just kidding.)

Aunt Yente

(Really. She was only joking.)

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All materials © 1985 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Calendar for 5745

March 1985

Wed 6	Purim Service
Sat 9	Megillah Madness III
Mon 11	Va'ad Meeting
Wed 20	Deadline for Petition Candidacy

April 1985

Fri 5	Passover
Sat 6	Congregational Seder
Mon 8	Va'ad Meeting
Fri 12	Yom HaShoah Service
Thu 18	Yom HaShoah
Wed 24	Yom HaZikaron
Thu 25	Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 1985

Sun 5	Congregational Meeting Election of Officers and 4 Va'ad Members
Thu 9	Lag Ba'Omer
Mon 13	Va'ad Meeting
Sat 25	Erev Shavuot Service

June 1985

Thu 6-Sun 9	9th Int'l Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.
Mon 10	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 23	Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade
Fri 28-Sun 30	Leadership Advance Westerbeke Ranch

July 1985

Mon 8	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 28	Tisha B'Av

August 1985

Mon 12	Va'ad Meeting
Sun 18	Castro Street Fair

September 1985

Mon 16	Rosh Hashanah 5746
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Chanukah

(Continued from page 8)

heroes of the evening, as they have been for several years now. While all danced and enjoyed the party, this group worked the whole evening in the kitchen making sure that everyone had plenty to eat. We are indeed grateful for their efforts.

One of the most exciting events of the evening was the suspenseful drawing of the raffle prizes. This year the raffle too was bigger and better than ever, including over twenty prizes. At the top of the list were the four main prizes: an expense-paid weekend in San Diego courtesy of Westwind Travel, a weekend at the Claremont Hotel, a \$250 gift certificate from City Island Clothing and a week at Shirley Liberman's Russian River cabin. Other prizes included meals at Ivy's, Luisa's, Kimball's, Noble Pies, Gerard's and the Atherton Hotel; framed prints from Designer's Frame, wine glasses from Obelisk and truffles from S.F. Chocolate Company; gift certificates from All That Jazz, The Good Provider, the Opera Shop, Lenny's Linen Closet, Hansen's Cleaners and The Animal Company; and lastly, free eye exams by Kenneth Agues, O.D. And because of all the exciting prizes, the raffle, the Congregation's main fund-raising event for the year, earned almost \$4,000—twice as much as in the past.

Special thanks first of all to the generous donors of the raffle prizes. We appreciate this support of our congregation. Our thanks for an outstanding job of making the entire raffle such a success goes to Jay Feinstein and Richard Inlander who not only went out and got all the prizes, but put the whole thing together from start to finish.

Finally, the whole wonderful evening could not have been possible without the talented coordination and tireless efforts of Shirley Liberman, chair of the Chanukah Bash Committee. Shirley and her group, including Lenny Brill, Jay Feinstein, Richard Inlander, David Wasserman, Ilene Hirsch, Barry Siegal, Bob Mackey, Mike Lipson and Allen Brandstein, started planning the party back in September and worked continuously right up through the party itself. The Congregation is very grateful to them, and to all the other people who volunteered by helping to set up, clean up, staff the bar and the dreidl tables, for creating a very successful and wonderful Chanukah celebration.

—Judah Katz, Coordinator
of Social Activities

Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee has been busy tackling the almost never-ending list of issues our wonderful Congregation keeps nudging us to explore. Due to the amount of work pending before us we have been meeting weekly.

The current issues under discussion are:

1. Increasing the presidential term to 2 years. This question will be presented to the Congregation at the November 1985 semi-annual meeting, so that if the term is increased, the bylaw amendment will be in place for the May 1986 elections.

2. Operational vs. Standing Committees. This is currently a hot discussion item and we will keep you posted. This will no doubt be on the November agenda.

From a Friend in Mississippi

In December, Mike Rankin sent some information about the Congregation to Rabbi Allan Schwartzman, rabbi of his home congregation in Vicksburg, Miss., Anshe Chesed. Rabbi Schwartzman's reply including the following message:

I read with much interest the article that you were good enough to send to me on the developments at Sha'ar Zahav. You and your fellow congregants have undertaken a huge responsibility, but you have done it with wisdom, care and concern for the sensibilities of the many as well as the few. I can only applaud your good work and wish you God-speed. May you grow from strength to strength.

Perhaps, if you have visited Jerusalem, you noticed the several gates leading to the old city. Most of us are familiar with the Damascus Gate (Sha'ar Shechem) or the Jaffe Gate. However, one of the least known and visible gates is known as Sha'ar Zahav (The Golden Gate). That gate is now sealed. The traditionalists insist that the seal will be broken when the messiah will enter Jerusalem through that gate. Some 10,000 miles away, in a far different format, you and your congregants have opened a very vibrant and necessary golden gate to a living Judaism for our time and for varying life-styles. While I love the tradition, adjustments have been the hallmark of Judaism from the earliest days. I believe that you are achieving a significant breakthrough.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Allan H. Schwartzman

3. Vice President to act as Coordinator in absence of an appointed Coordinator. This issue is planned for the congregational meeting in May. The committee believes a coordinator would facilitate communication between and among the committees.

4. Property Management. Modifications of this bylaw have been tentatively scheduled for the November meeting.

5. Redefinition of function of Building Committee. To reflect the responsibilities of building ownership, a bylaw amendment will be placed before the Congregation at the May meeting.

6. Office of Parliamentarian. The committee strongly recommends the appointment of a parliamentarian for congregational meetings, so that Robert's Rules of Order will govern the process, as required by the bylaws.

7. Pre-congregational meeting explanatory meetings. The committee has under discussion the possibility of holding an informational meeting prior to the voting meeting so that issues can be discussed and explored.

8. Membership list confidentiality. A proposed bylaw amendment which would permit members to waive confidentiality of their names, addresses, and phone numbers is undergoing legal analysis at this time.

9. Removal of Committee Chairs and Members. Current bylaws provide for removal of Va'ad members, but a committee chair may be removed only upon recommendation of a Coordinator or of the committee. Amendments to this process are under consideration.

10. Bylaws as a standing committee. As you can surmise, we believe there is a need for this committee to meet on a regular basis.

As stated in the January Forward, if discourse is your bag, we'd love to have you come to any Bylaws Committee meeting. All suggestions will be discussed and voted upon.

All meetings will be at Richard Inlander's home, 860 Noe Street, 821-4134. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m.

—Shelley Spiro, Scribe,
Bylaws Committee

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Officers:

President, Leila Raim
Vice President, Don Albert
Treasurer, David Stein
Recorder, Mark Mendelow

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. – check calendar for each month.

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein
Leslie Bergson
Alex Ingersoll
Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
Ron Lezell
Cheryl Orvis
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

Administrator:

Marilyn Hertzberg
The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, by committee
Finance, Tom Rothgiesser
Membership, Allan Berenstein
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and Leila Raim
Ritual, Leslie Bergson
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Women's Chavurah, Allyce Kimerling
Coordinator of Social Activities, Judah Katz

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Purim (Continued from page 1)

have a booth. Do you have a fantasy? After you forget the first one, put the second one to work for yourself, your friends and your synagogue. Our screening process is in the hands of David Shaber, who can be contacted for further information.

So remember March 9, when madness reigns supreme with a great play (only a few of the Greek stories have outlived our Megillah in stage runs, but *they* were tragedies), costume and mask parades and contests, a hamentaschen bake-off, food, drink, entertainment, booths and prizes all over the place.

For information you can contact Chair Ralph Frischman at 673-9652 or Social Action Chair Judah Katz at 282-6377.

Megillah Madness III...

Saturday, March 9...8–12 p.m...S.F.M.S.

Classified Ads

ROOMMATE WANTED (M or F): Beautiful, renowned home at 65 Manchester (Bernal Heights). 2 levels, 2 decks, fireplace, w/w carpeting, washer/dryer, gym. Your own large bedroom and bathroom, garage option, to share with 2 male lovers, \$500 (negotiable). Call 821-4257.

Gay? Lesbian?

Jewish?

**Not a member of
Sha'ar Zahav?**

**A
SCHANDE!**

To receive a membership application, simply request one by phoning the Sha'ar Zahav office at 861-6932, write to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114, or pick up at services, every Friday night at 8:15.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of December, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

December 7—Yo Schneeman and Lori Couzens in honor of their new home and their anniversary.

December 14—Mike Rankin, in honor of Rabbi Robert Kirschner and Ms. Ellen Sears. Flowers by Bob Mackey and David Shaber, in honor of their 1st anniversary.

December 21—Michal Abts, in memory of her dear friend Nancy Ponch.

December 28—Sam and Barry Rosen, in memory of Goldie, Sam's wife and Barry's mother.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti at 441-0276 or at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Purim the Pageant

proudly presents

Megillah Madness III



Celebrate Purim with
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Saturday, March 9, 1985
8:00-12:00 PM

San Francisco Medical Society Building
250 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco, California

Events

The Passion Play, once again
Hamentaschen Bake-off
Parade of Costumes
Costume and Mask Judging
Games and Prizes
Jewish Delicacies and Beverages
Music, laughter and fun.

Purim Pageant

Megillah Modness III

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
RESERVATION FORM
Saturday, April 6, 6 p.m.
Golden Gateway Holiday Inn
(Van Ness and Pine)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (at \$25.00 each)

_____ Non-members (at \$30.00 each)

_____ Children (at \$18.50 each)

as follows (indicate number of each):

_____ Kosher-style meals

_____ Kosher Nutrition Project meals

_____ Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

Visa # _____ Exp. _____

MC # _____ Exp. _____

MC Interbank # (4 digits) _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

All reservation forms must be received by Monday, April 1.

Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.

